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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE:

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SUBJECT Reorganization of the Criminal Police

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN Germany

1. The reorganization of the Criminal Police in the Soviet Zone of Occupation, ordered by the German Administration of the Interior in mid-February 1949, implements plans which, after frequent changes, were completed by Hauptabteilung K in October or November 1948. The new structure of the reorganized Criminal Police embodies the following fundamental innovations:
- As regards its vertical structure the Criminal Police has been stripped of its autonomous character within the framework of the Soviet Zone Police. More specifically, the Criminal Police is no longer an independent special police branch (Fachsparte) with a structure distinct from that of the other police branches, but has become part of a uniform police system. In practical terms this has resulted principally in the abolition of all independent command channels, as command authority is now vested exclusively in the chief of the police organization of which the criminal police is a part. The chiefs of the Abteilungen K retain technical control; as a matter of course, the right to hand down technical directives will not prevail if the chief of the police holds a contrary opinion. The complete absorption of the Criminal Police into the uniform police system also finds its expression in the abolition of special rank designations for criminal police personnel. If, as planned, the Criminal Police should be put into uniforms, all distinctive characteristics would in effect have disappeared.
 - The horizontal structure of the Criminal Police, as it emerges from the latest reorganization, represents an attempt to anticipate a reform of the criminal law which differentiates between identical crimes according to standards, social and economic, developed under the Marxian theory. The new functional subdivision of the Criminal Police is designed to project those

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standards upon its structure by placing special emphasis upon all those crimes which are directed against the economic planning and socialized property which form the basis of the Marxian economy. By subjecting such crimes in the initial police phase to a special type of investigation, the seriousness with which they are to be viewed, not only by the public prosecutor in his indictment but also by the judge in his application of the old laws, is implicitly conveyed. In practical terms the new system would, e.g., draw a distinction between the theft of a driving belt from a publicly owned plant and the robbery of a diamond necklace from a private house. The former will be handled by Section B, the latter by C. The former crime has inflicted "social" damage; the latter is a mere private offense. The task of the case officer in Section B is merely to ascertain and to state in his final report that social damage has been inflicted, asking that the perpetrator be given adequate punishment. No special consideration need be given to the degree of culpability involved. On the other hand, the initial investigation will have to determine whether the crime directed against economy and socialized property was perpetrated "politically, i.e., with intent of sabotage and, consequently, with political motivation." If that be the case, the crime in question falls under the jurisdiction, not of Section B, but of Section K-5.

2. In a great many instances the new system may result in jurisdictional conflicts which can be resolved only after police investigation has practically been completed. Whether Section B or C or K-5 is competent to handle the crime will often be decided only after, in the course of the investigation, certain facts have come to light on the basis of which it can be said that the perpetrator is either a "normal sinner", an "enemy of society" or a political saboteur. In practice, the following is liable to happen: while the investigation is running its course the case may be started in one section, revert to another, and be finished in a third.
3. The new horizontal structure of the Criminal Police in the Soviet Zone, having been in force for a comparatively short time, has already resulted in so many jurisdictional problems, that it has seriously affected the efficiency of Zonal police work. In addition, the incidence of "normal crimes" has exceeded by far that of social crimes, so that the amount of work to be done by Section C is far greater than that required of B, necessitating a corresponding allocation of personnel. Qualified personnel who can ill be spared have had to be diverted to a section where they are least needed.
4. The K-5 apparatus (political police) has not become part of the new Criminal Police structure. It continues to exist as a separate entity. What place it will be assigned within the police system and what organizational form it will be given has not as yet been decided. There are two schools of thought, one favoring the integration of K-5 with Section B, the other advocating the activation of an independent security police branch.

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Excerpts from Dienstanweisung 26/49, issued by Abteilung K, Landespolizeibehörde, Land Sachsen-Anhalt. Effective 28 February 1948. The structure of the Criminal Police in the Soviet Zone will be the following:

1. Hauptabteilung K in the German Administration of the Interior is sub-divided into the following sections:
 - A Statistics and Reports (Berichtswesen)
 - B Protection and Security of the national economy
 - C Other Crimes
 - E Crime Identification Service (Erkennungsdienst)
 - F Searches (Fahndung)
2. The Landeskriminalpolizeiabteilung (LKPA)* of the Landespolizeibehörde (Land police headquarters) is sub-divided into so-called Dezernate, the alphabetical designations and functional delineations being identical with those of Hauptabteilung K (see 1, above).
3. The Kreiskriminalpolizeiabteilungen (KKPA) of the Polizeiamter are sub-divided into so-called Kommissariate. Their structure differs from that of the aforementioned Hauptabteilung K and Landeskriminalpolizeiabteilungen in the following respects: Kommissariate E and F are, on grounds of expediency, merged into one. Thus there are only three Kommissariate in a Kreiskriminalpolizeiabteilung.
4. The Kreispolizeibehörde (KRPB) of the Polizeiamter (police precincts) are sub-divided into Sachgebiete. Depending on the extent of their territorial jurisdiction (Arbeitsgebiete) they comprise three Sachgebiete: B, C, E, and F; the latter two being merged as in the case of the Kreiskriminalpolizeiabteilungen. In small precincts to which only one police official is assigned, all cases will be handled by this individual.
5. The Dezernate 5 in the Landeskriminalpolizeiabteilungen and the Kommissariate 5 in the Kreiskriminalpolizeiabteilungen remain intact with regard both to structure and personnel.
6. The following command echelon is provided for the Criminal Police:
 - a. German Administration of the Interior
Chief of Hauptabteilung K
Deputy PK (Polit/Kultur)
Deputy OP (operations?)
Secretariat
 - b. Land Police Headquarters
Chief of Abteilung K (who at the same time is the deputy to the chief of the Land police)
Deputy
Secretariat
 - c. District Police Headquarters
Chief of Abteilung K (who at the same time is the deputy to the chief of district police)
Secretariat
The Chief of Abteilung K has no deputy. In his absence the head of Kommissariat B will deputize for him.
7. The new structure of the Criminal Police reflects the political and economic changes which have occurred in the Soviet Zone of Occupation during the three and one half years since the termination of the Hitler war.

The Dezernate and Kommissariate B are charged with the protection of the national economy and of socialized property (Volkseigentum).

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... will not be in charge of the so-called general criminality directed against private interests. No important changes in the functional subdivisions (Arbeitsgruppen) are contemplated; there will merely be better coordination.

The Dezeretate and Kommissariate 7 and 8 are the technical (technical) Dezeretate and Kommissariate, charged with the administration of the technical resources of the criminal police.

Technical control (fachliche Leitung) over the various echelons of the Criminal Police is exercised by the Hauptabteilung K of the German Administration of the Interior, which controls the Criminal Police Zone; the Landeskriminalpolizeiabteilung, which controls the Criminal Police of each land; the chief of the Kreis-kriminalpolizeiabteilung, who controls the Criminal Police in the district.

Command authority (Dienstaufsicht) over the various echelons of the Criminal Police is vested in the President of the German Administration of the Interior, who commands the Criminal Police in the Soviet Zone; the chief of the Land police, who commands the Criminal Police in the Land; the chiefs of the Polizeidirektor, who command the Criminal Police in the Kreise; the chiefs of the precincts, who command the Criminal Police in the precincts.

9. A uniform designation of ranks will be applied effective 1-1-40.

Pol. Anwärter (police aspirant)
Pol. Wachtmeister
Pol. Oberwachtmeister
Pol. Hauptwachtmeister
Pol. Meister
Pol. Kommissar
Pol. Oberkommissar
Pol. Rat
Oberpolizeirat
Polizei-Kommandeur
Pol. Inspekteur
Chefinspekteur

* Comment: In a different context the document refers to the Landeskriminalpolizeiabteilung as Abteilung K der Landespolizeibehörde. The former designation, however, is to be used in all official correspondence.

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